

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL WORK SESSION
January 22, 2013
City Council Chambers – Rouss City Hall**

DRAFT

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Councilor Evan Clark, John Hill, John Tagnesi and Les Veach; Vice-Mayor Milt McInturff; Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-President John Willingham (8)
ABSENT: Councilor Ben Weber (1)

Items for Discussion:

CU-12-597: Conditional Use Permit – Request of Shenandoah Personal Communications, LLC for a conditional use permit for a telecommunications facility at 119-129 North Loudoun Street (*Map Number 173-01-F-26*) zoned Central Business (B-1) District with Historic Winchester (HW) District overlay

Zoning Administrator Aaron Grisdale presented a request to install 6 towers on the Taylor Hotel. Each tower will be installed 84 feet in the air on the side of the tower and will be camouflaged from public view. The applicant has received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Board of Architectural Review. The Planning Commission imposed 3 conditions similar to other telecommunication requests we have received.

Councilor Tagnesi moved to forward CU-12-597 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then approved 7/0/1 with Vice-President Willingham abstaining.*

CU-12-556: Request of Emad Khezam dba Alibaba Hookah Bar for a conditional use permit for nightclub use and to modify conditions of an existing conditional use permit for hookah establishment use at 932 Berryville Avenue (*Map Number 176-07-3*) zoned Highway Commercial (B-2) District.

Mr. Grisdale presented the request for a nightclub use and modifications at the hookah bar. Since it is coming close to the renewal of the original CUP, staff is recommending rolling them together. Mr. Grisdale stated there is no cause for concern and the applicant is current on their taxes. Alcohol sales will still be prohibited with this proposal. He stated the Planning Commission recommended conditions with their approval to include the original conditions plus those imposed on a nightclub. The applicant is proposing to extend their hours of business to 2:00 a.m.

Mayor Minor moved to forward CU-12-556 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then passed 7/1 with Council Veach voting in the negative.*

R-2013-04: Resolution of jail authority refunding and new monies issuance.

Finance Director Mary Blowe stated with the bond interest rates, the Jail Authority bonds can be refinanced for a savings of \$1.3 million dollars. The authority is proposing to do \$1 million in new projects. Each jurisdiction must sign off on this to move forward.

Councilor Veach moved to forward R-2013-04 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill then approved 8/o.*

Ms. Blowe presented a brief summary of the financial report. She stated the budget summary from July 1 to December 1 is close to expected. She expressed a little concern with the sales tax but stated the November sales tax actually exceeded last year. The meals and hotel taxes are all strong. She stated the cash looks strong until you consider the January 15th debt service. A good business license season is expected and the real estate market looks good. She stated on the Utility side, the revenues look good and consumption is up.

Downtown Strategic Plan Quarterly Update

Interim Downtown Manager Will Moore presented the progress made during the second quarter of the Downtown Strategic Plan to include: started the Pedestrian Mall project, started phase 1 of the Taylor Hotel, cleared the expanded green area around the Taylor Hotel, continued discussions with Federal Transit on purchasing one of the trolleys, submitted a trolley operation budget, completed a survey of substandard properties in the downtown and surrounding areas, developed a report on crime and time spent on Loudoun Street Mall, submitted a budget to enhance the cameras on the mall, continued discussion on a market strategy until the new manager arrived in January, continued construction on the Old Star building, discovered additional signage is possible on Rt. 37 at Rt. 50 and on I-81 at exit 315, enhanced advertising on the City's television channel, website, and social media, and refined the master event calendar and enhanced the holiday events with the Events Promoter. He stated this will be the last presentation as the reports will be rolling into the City's Strategic Plan.

Historic Old Town Revitalization Project and Promotional Update

Utilities Director Perry Eisenach stated the revitalization project has been under construction for 3 weeks and is on schedule. The contractor is making progress. They have installed 500 feet of sewer main and 400 feet of water main. Mr. Eisenach presented a list of target dates developed with the contractor. He stated the south end is expected to be done before the north because it is shorter. The restroom facility has also been started. All of the construction is expected to be complete by April 26th with the landscaping finished after Apple Blossom.

Downtown Manager Jennifer Bell presented examples of the promotional activities that are being used such as postcards, banners at the mall entrances, sandwich boards to help navigate to the businesses, pamphlets to showcase downtown, and signage in the

parking garages. The Big Kiss event is being advertised along with an additional event to encourage people to come downtown to shop and dine. An event in support of Restaurant Week is being planned for March. She stated the upcoming events and promotional activities are being announced on the radio stations, television and through social media.

Recommend appointment of Dale Iman City Manager to the Northwestern Regional Jail Authority

Vice-President Willingham moved to forward the appointment to Council. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then approved 8/o.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION – MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(3) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE ACQUISITION OF AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE WHERE IF MADE PUBLIC, THE BARGAINING POSITION OR FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE CITY WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

Vice-President Willingham moved to convene into executive session at 6:52 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Tagnesi then approved 8/o.*

Councilor Veach moved to reconvene in open session at 7:24 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill then approved 8/o.*

Upon returning, each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
President Buettner	Aye
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-Mayor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Tagnesi	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Absent
Vice-President Willingham	Aye

Report of Liaisons

No reports were presented.

Monthly Reports

Finance Department

Adjourn

Councilor Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill then approved 8/0.*